

# NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

## Adopted and Filed Emergency After Notice

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.48, and 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 91, "Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons," Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter contains the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on May 1, 2013, as **ARC 0721C**. A public hearing was held on May 23, 2013. Sixteen comments were received. All except 1 supported the dates in general; 3 of the 16 asked that the early duck season be reduced to two days while 4 asked that it stay at five days.

The amendments to adjust the season dates to reflect changes in calendar dates and remove the bag limit on light geese during the conservation order season remain unchanged from the Notice. Since the Notice of Intended Action was published, amendments were added to change the daily bag limit from four scaup and one canvasback to three scaup and two canvasbacks and to increase the possession limit from two times the daily bag limit to three times the daily bag limit for all applicable species to conform to changes made in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's regulations for hunting waterfowl. These changes reflect the most recent population information on these species.

The Department finds, pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)"b"(2), that the normal effective date of these amendments should be waived and that these amendments should be made effective upon filing as they confer a benefit on the public by establishing a September 7 start date for the waterfowl hunting season.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found since changes are due to shifts in the calendar dates or minor changes in bag limits. The change in the bag limit for light geese during the conservation order will not affect license sales or hunter effort.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48. These amendments became effective August 15, 2013.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrules 91.1(2) to 91.1(6) as follows:

**91.1(2) Season dates - north zone.** For all ducks: September ~~22~~ 21 through September ~~26~~ 25 and October ~~13~~ 12 through December ~~6~~ 5.

**91.1(3) Season dates - south zone.** For all ducks: September ~~22~~ 21 through September ~~26~~ 25 and October ~~20~~ 19 through December ~~13~~ 12.

**91.1(4) Season dates - Missouri River zone.** For all ducks: September ~~22~~ 21 through September ~~26~~ 25 and October ~~27~~ 26 through December ~~20~~ 19.

**91.1(5) Bag limit.** The daily bag limit of ducks is 6, and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 1 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, 1 mottled duck, ~~1 canvasback~~ 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, and ~~4-3~~ scaup. The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

**91.1(6) Possession limit.** Possession limit is ~~twice~~ three times the daily bag limit.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 91.2(1) as follows:

**91.2(1) Bag and possession limits.** Daily bag limit is 15 and possession limit is ~~30~~ three times the daily bag limit.

ITEM 3. Amend subrules 91.3(2) to 91.3(4) and 91.3(6) as follows:

**91.3(2) Season dates - north zone.** Canada geese and brant: September ~~29~~ 28 through January 4, 2013 ~~3~~, 2014. White-fronted geese: September ~~29~~ 28 through December ~~11~~ 10. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): September ~~29~~ 28 through January ~~13~~, 2013 12, 2014.

**91.3(3) Season dates - south zone.** Canada geese and brant: October 6 5 through January 11, ~~2013~~ 10, 2014. White-fronted geese: October 6 5 through December 18 17. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): October 6 5 through January 18, ~~2013~~ 17, 2014.

**91.3(4) Season dates - Missouri River zone.** Canada geese and brant: October 13 12 through January 18, ~~2013~~ 17, 2014. White-fronted geese: October 13 12 through December 25 24. Light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese): October 13 12 through January 18, ~~2013~~ 17, 2014.

**91.3(6) Possession limit.** The possession limit is ~~twice~~ three times the daily bag limit for Canada geese, brant and white-fronted geese. There is no possession limit for light geese.

ITEM 4. Amend subrules 91.3(8) to 91.3(11) as follows:

**91.3(8) Light goose conservation order season.** Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from January 19, ~~2013~~ 18, 2014, through April 15, ~~2013~~ 2014.

- a. *Zone boundaries.* Statewide.
- b. *Shooting hours.* One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- c. *Bag limit.* ~~Bag limit is 20 light geese.~~ No bag limit.
- d. *Possession limit.* No possession limit.
- e. *Other regulations.* Methods of take approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for hunting light geese during the conservation order season shall be permitted.

**91.3(9) Cedar Rapids/Iowa City goose hunting zone.**

- a. *Season dates.* September 1 7 through September 9 15.
- b. No change.
- c. *Possession limit.* ~~Twice~~ Three times the daily bag limit.
- d. No change.

**91.3(10) Des Moines goose hunting zone.**

- a. *Season dates.* September 1 7 through September 9 15.
- b. No change.
- c. *Possession limit.* ~~Twice~~ Three times the daily bag limit.
- d. No change.

**91.3(11) Cedar Falls/Waterloo goose hunting zone.**

- a. *Season dates.* September 1 7 through September 9 15.
- b. No change.
- c. *Possession limit.* ~~Twice~~ Three times the daily bag limit.
- d. No change.

ITEM 5. Amend rule 571—91.6(481A) as follows:

**571—91.6(481A) Youth waterfowl hunt.** A special youth waterfowl hunt will be held on October 6 ~~and 7, 2012,~~ 5 and 6 in the north duck hunting zone, ~~and October 13 and 14, 2012,~~ 12 and 13 in the south duck hunting zone, and October 20 ~~and 21, 2012,~~ 19 and 20 in the Missouri River duck hunting zone. Youth hunters must be residents of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section 483A.1A and less than 16 years old. Each youth hunter must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or older. The youth hunter does not need to have a hunting license or stamps. The adult must have a valid hunting license and habitat stamp if normally required to have them to hunt and a state waterfowl stamp. Only the youth hunter may shoot ducks and coots. The adult may hunt for any other game birds for which the season is open. The daily bag and possession limits are the same as for the regular waterfowl season, as defined in rule 571—91.1(481A). All other hunting regulations in effect for the regular waterfowl season apply to the youth hunt.

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